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Trump administration says SNAP will be partially funded in November

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL and KIMBERLEE KRUESI**

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) —

President Donald Trump's administration said Monday that it will partially fund SNAP after two judges issued rulings requiring it to keep the nation's largest food aid program running. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, had planned to freeze payments starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding it during the federal government shutdown. The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and is a major piece of the nation's social safety net. It costs more than \$8 billion per month nationally. The government says an emergency fund it will use has \$4.65 billion enough to cover about half the normal benefits.

Exhausting the fund potentially sets the stage for a similar situation in December if the shutdown isn't resolved by then.

It's not clear exactly how much beneficiaries will receive, nor how quickly they will see value show up on the debit cards they use to buy groceries. November payments have already been delayed for millions of people.

"The Trump Administration has the means to fund this program in full, and their decision not to will leave millions of Americans hungry and waiting even lon-



A customer walks into a bakery as a SNAP EBT information sign is displayed at the front door in Chicago, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025.

ger for relief as government takes the additional steps needed to partially fund this program," Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, who led a coalition of Democratic state officials in one of the lawsuits that forced the funding, said in a statement.

How will SNAP beneficiaries manage?

People who receive the benefits are trying to figure out how to stretch their grocery money further.

Corina Betancourt, who's 40 and lives in Glendale, Arizona, already uses a food bank sometimes to get groceries for herself and her three kids, ages 8 through 11. With her SNAP benefits reduced and delayed,

she's expecting to use the food bank more and find ways to stretch what she has further.

But she is worried that there won't be enough for her children to eat with about \$400 this month instead of around \$800. "We always make things work somehow, some way," she said. In Camden, New Jersey, 41-year-old Jamal Brown, who is paralyzed after a series of strokes and on a fixed income, said family members asked him for a list of groceries he needs so they can stock him up.

But not everyone has that help.

"How did you expect to live a healthy life if you're not eating the right stuff?" he asked. "If you don't have

the access to the food stamps, you're going to go to the cheapest thing that you can afford."

Details on how payments will roll out are still to come. The administration said it would provide details to states on Monday on calculating the per-household partial benefit. The process of loading the SNAP cards, which involves steps by state and federal government agencies and vendors, can take up to two weeks in some states. But the USDA warned in a court filing that it could take weeks or even months for states to make all the system changes to send out reduced benefits. The average monthly benefit is usually about \$190 per person.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta said at a news conference that it would take his state about a week to load benefit cards once the funding is made available.

"These are folks who are hungry, and every day matters," Bonta said.

The USDA said last month that benefits for November wouldn't be paid due to the federal government shutdown. That set off a scramble by food banks, state governments and the nearly 42 million Americans who receive the aid to find ways to ensure access to groceries.

Democratic state attorneys general or governors from 25 states, as well as the District of Columbia, challenged the plan to pause the program, contending that the administration has a legal obligation to keep it running in their jurisdictions. Cities and nonprofits also filed a lawsuit.

Trump posted on social media Friday that he does "NOT want Americans to go hungry just because the Radical Democrats refuse to do the right thing and REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT." He said he was telling government lawyers to prepare SNAP payments as soon as possible.

State governments step in. Most states have boosted aid to food banks, and some are setting up systems to reload benefit cards with state taxpayer dollars. The threat of a delay also spurred lawsuits. □



This photo provided by the Harvard University Police Department shows a person of interest in an explosion at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025.

Associated Press

Harvard Medical School building reopens as police investigate explosion

BOSTON (AP) — A Harvard Medical School building has reopened while a "very active" investigation continues into a weekend explosion that authorities said was intentionally set off.

An officer who responded to a fire alarm early Saturday morning encountered two people running from the Goldenson Building, according to university police. The explosion occurred on the fourth floor of the building, which houses labs and offices associated with the medical school's Department of Neurobiology.

The Boston Fire Department determined that the explosion was intentional and officers did not find additional devices in a sweep of the building, police said. No one was injured.

"The small section of the fourth-floor hallway where the explosion took place has been cleared and is fully operational. There was no structural damage to the building, and all labs and equipment remain intact," medical school officials said in a statement.

An FBI spokesperson declined to comment Monday other than describing the investigation as "very active." Police released grainy photos of two people wearing face coverings and what looked like sweatshirts.

In recent months, President Donald Trump has targeted Harvard with a series of investigations and billions of dollars in funding cuts as it presses for changes to its policies and governance. □

States and cities challenge Trump policy overhauling public service loan forgiveness

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 20 Democrat-led states are challenging a new Trump administration policy designed to block nonprofit and government workers from a student loan cancellation program if federal officials determine their employer has a “substantial illegal purpose.” The policy is aimed primarily at organizations that work with immigrants and transgender youth. In the lawsuit filed Monday in Massachusetts, the states argue the Trump administration overstepped its authority when it added new eligibility rules for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. The overhaul will worsen job shortages and create instability in state workforces, the suit said. The legal challenge is being led by New York, Massachusetts, California and Colorado. New York Attorney General Letitia James said the rule is “a political loyalty test disguised as a regulation,” adding that it’s “unjust and unlawful to cut off loan forgiveness for hardworking Americans based on ideology.”



The U.S. Department of Education building is photographed in Washington, Dec. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

A separate coalition of cities, nonprofits and labor organizations also filed a legal challenge in Massachusetts on Monday. That suit was brought by Boston; Chicago; Albuquerque, New Mexico; San Francisco; Santa Clara, California; and the National Council of Nonprofits. Responding to the lawsuits, Under Secretary of Education Nicholas Kent said it’s unconscionable that the

plaintiffs are standing up for criminal activity. “This is a commonsense reform that will stop taxpayer dollars from subsidizing organizations involved in terrorism, child trafficking, and transgender procedures that are doing irreversible harm to children,” Kent said in a statement. “The final rule is crystal clear: the Department will enforce it neutrally, without consideration of the employer’s mission,

ideology, or the population they serve.” Another lawsuit challenging the rule is expected to be filed Tuesday on behalf of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights advocacy organization, the American Immigration Council and The Door, a legal group. They’re being represented by the groups Student Defense and Public Citizen. Congress created the program in 2007 to steer more

graduates into lower-paying public sector jobs. It promises to forgive their federal student loans after they make payments for 10 years while working in government jobs or for many nonprofits. More than 1 million Americans have had their loans canceled through the program, including teachers, firefighters, nurses and public defenders. Under the new policy finalized last week, employers can be removed if they engage in activities including the trafficking or “chemical castration” of children, illegal immigration and supporting terrorist groups. “Chemical castration” is defined as using hormone therapy or drugs that delay puberty gender-affirming care common for transgender children or teens. The education secretary gets the final say in determining whether a group’s work has an illegal purpose, weighing whether the “preponderance of the evidence” leans against them. In their lawsuit, the states argue that entire state governments, hospitals, schools and nonprofits could unilaterally be ruled ineligible by the secretary. □

FDA’s top drug regulator resigns after federal officials probe ‘serious concerns’

By MATTHEW PERRONE
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Food and Drug Administration’s drug center abruptly resigned Sunday after federal officials began reviewing “serious concerns about his personal conduct,” according to a government spokesperson. Dr. George Tidmarsh, who was named to the FDA post in July, was placed on leave Friday after officials in the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of General Counsel were notified of the issues, HHS press secretary Emily Hilliard said in an email. Tidmarsh then resigned Sunday morning.

“Secretary Kennedy expects the highest ethical standards from all individuals serving under his leadership and remains committed to full transparency,” Hilliard said. The departure came the same day that a drugmaker connected to one of Tidmarsh’s former business associates filed a lawsuit alleging that he made “false and defamatory statements,” during his time at the FDA. The lawsuit, brought by Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, alleges that Tidmarsh used his FDA position to pursue a “longstanding personal vendetta” against the chair of the company’s board of directors, Kevin Tang. Tang previously served as a board member of several drugmakers where Tidmarsh was an executive, including La Jolla Pharmaceutical, and was involved in his ouster from those leadership positions, according to the lawsuit. Messages placed to Tidmarsh and his lawyer were not immediately returned late Sunday. Tidmarsh founded and led a series of pharmaceutical companies over several decades working in California’s pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Before joining the FDA, he also served as an adjunct professor at Stanford University. He was recruited to join the agency over the

summer after meeting with FDA Commissioner Marty Makary. Tidmarsh’s ouster is the latest in a string of haphazard leadership changes at the agency, which has been rocked for months by firings, departures and controversial decisions on vaccines, fluoride and other products. □

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The Food and Drug Administration seal is seen at the Hubert Humphrey Building Auditorium in Washington, April 22, 2025.
Associated Press

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Two men accused of plotting terror attacks at LGBTQ+ bars in the Detroit area

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Two men who had acquired high-powered weapons and practiced at gun ranges were scouting LGBTQ+ bars in suburban Detroit for a possible attack, authorities said Monday in filing terrorism-related charges against the pair.

Momed Ali, Majed Mahmoud and co-conspirators were inspired by the Islamic State group's extremism, according to a 72-page criminal complaint unsealed in federal court. Investigators say a minor, identified only as Person 1, was deeply involved in the discussions.

"Our American heroes prevented a terror attack," U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi said on X.

The 20-year-old men, described as too young to drink alcohol, had looked at LGBTQ+ bars in Ferndale as a possible attack, according to the complaint.



An FBI agent stands by an Evidence Response Team truck outside a home in a Dearborn, Mich., neighborhood on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.

Before making arrests Friday, FBI agents had surveilled them for weeks, even using a camera on a pole outside a Dearborn house, according to the court filing. Investigators

also got access to encrypted chats and other conversations and scoured social media posts.

Ali and Mahmoud were charged with receiving and transferring guns and

ammunition for terrorism. They made brief appearances in federal court Monday and will remain in custody at least until a Nov. 10 detention hearing. Defense attorneys Wil-

liam Swor and Amir Makled declined to comment. Makled over the weekend seemed to wave off the allegations, saying they were the result of "hysteria" and "fear-mongering."

Mahmoud had recently bought more than 1,600 rounds of ammunition that could be used for AR-15-style rifles, and both practiced at gun ranges, the government alleged. The FBI said the men repeatedly referred to "pumpkins" in their conversations, a reference to a Halloween attack.

The court filing says Person 1, the minor, regularly consulted the father of a "local Islamic extremist ideologue" about when to commit a "good deed."

FBI Director Kash Patel had announced arrests Friday, but no details were released at the time while agents searched homes in Dearborn and a storage unit rented by Ali in nearby Inkster. □

Associated Press

American Arab group sues over California's new antisemitism law

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is challenging a new Cali-



California Gov. Gavin Newsom at a press conference to discuss the measures approved by the legislature to redraw the state's Congressional districts and put new maps before voters in a special election, in Sacramento, Calif., Aug. 21, 2025.

Associated Press

fornia law designed to protect Jewish students from discrimination, arguing it is unconstitutionally vague and violates their free speech rights.

The federal complaint, filed Sunday in San Jose, seeks to invalidate legislation Gov. Gavin Newsom signed last month, creating an Office of Civil Rights to help schools identify and prevent antisemitism. State lawmakers approved the legislation as political tensions have flared in the U.S. over Israel's war in Gaza.

The new law, which takes effect Jan. 1, does not define antisemitism but gives educators the impression that they could be

charged with discrimination "if they expose their students to ideas, information, and instructional materials that may be considered critical of the State of Israel and the philosophy of Zionism," according to the complaint.

Jenin Younes, national legal director at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, says the lack of guidance has a chilling effect on speech among educators.

"They censor themselves very broadly because they don't know what's going to get them into trouble," she said.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of individual teachers

and students in California public schools, and the Los Angeles Educators for Justice in Palestine.

In the complaint, middle school science teacher Jonah Olson, says students at his rural, largely Christian school district, often ask him what it means to be Jewish. He responds in part by saying that his Judaism does not include support for the State of Israel, and now he fears that might violate the law.

Parents who are part of the lawsuit say they fear their children will be prevented from learning about differing perspectives on Israel, Palestinians and the Middle East. □

Powerful 6.3 earthquake hits northern Afghanistan, killing 20 and damaging historic Blue Mosque

By **ABDUL QAHAH AFGHAN**
and **SIDDIQULLAH ALIZAI**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A powerful 6.3 magnitude earthquake shook northern Afghanistan before dawn Monday, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 640 others, as well as damaging the historic Blue Mosque, officials said.

The numbers of people killed or injured could rise, officials said.

In the town of Khulm, near the epicenter, people dug through the rubble of collapsed mud brick homes with shovels and picked through debris to salvage what belongings they could.

Local resident Ahmad Zia said the air was polluted from all the dust that rose from the ruins of houses.

"We pulled the bodies of two people from the rubble, and their funerals will be held today," he said.

Footage on social media from Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, showed several bricks had fallen from the walls of the Blue Mosque but the structure remained intact. The centuries-old



Injured residents of a 6.3 powerful earthquake in northern Afghanistan wait for treatment at a hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

site, one of Afghanistan's most revered religious landmarks, is a major gathering place during Islamic and cultural festivals.

The impoverished country often faces difficulty in responding to such natural disasters, especially in remote regions. Buildings tend to be low-rise constructions, mostly of concrete and

brick, with homes in rural and outlying areas made from mud bricks and wood, many poorly built.

In August, a quake in eastern Afghanistan killed more than 2,200 people.

Hundreds of houses destroyed

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was located 22 kilometers

(14 miles) west-southwest of the town of Khulm, and that it struck at 12:59 a.m. at a depth of 28 kilometers (17 miles).

The deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's National Disaster Management Authority, Qari Taj Mohammad Hemat, said the earthquake had struck Balkh, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, and

Kunduz provinces and had left 20 people dead and 643 others injured, of whom 25 were in critical condition.

Earlier, Sharafat Zaman, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Health, said the dead and more than 500 of the injured had been brought to hospitals in Balkh and Samangan provinces. Rescuers were on the scene and the figures were changing, he added.

In the nearby province of Badakhshan, the quake partially or completely destroyed 800 houses in one village in the Shahr-e-Borzorg district, said Ihsanullah Kamgar, spokesperson for the provincial police headquarters. But with a lack of internet in the remote area, there were still no accurate casualty figures, he added. Yousaf Hammad, a spokesman for Afghanistan's disaster management agency, said most of the injured suffered minor wounds and were discharged after treatment.

Another resident of Khulm, Abdul Mubin, said he had been sleeping in his shop when the earthquake struck. □

Mining giant Anglo American faces class action appeal over alleged lead poisoning in Zambia

By **GERALD IMRAY**
Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) —

An appeal hearing opened Monday in South Africa on whether a subsidiary of British-based mining company Anglo American PLC was responsible for lead poisoning over decades that affected around 140,000 people in Zambia.

The class action by women and children asks South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal to overturn a judgment by a lower court that dismissed their case against Anglo American South Africa.

They allege that a mine in the Zambian city of Kabwe which Anglo American South Africa was involved with from 1925 to 1974 "poi-

soned generations of local people," according to a statement from their lawyers.

The lower court in Johannesburg dismissed their case in 2023, ruling that there was a lack of initial evidence that they had been poisoned. It called their case "an unmanageable class action" because every one of the roughly 140,000 people would have to prove they suffered from illness caused by lead poisoning.

The judge in that ruling asserted that it could take 10 years for lawyers just to consult with all the people bringing the case.

Kabwe, in central Zambia, has been called one of the most polluted places in the world and was named in a

2022 United Nations special report as an area permanently altered by mining activity.

A Human Rights Watch report this year said that soil contamination in Kabwe reaches 60,000 milligrams of lead per kilogram. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says lead contamination over 200 milligrams per kilogram is hazardous.

The class action lawsuit has been supported by several rights and civic groups, including Amnesty International, which says medical studies show that children from Kabwe have record-high levels of lead in their blood. Lead can cause permanent damage to internal organs, including the brain.

Anglo American does not dispute that severe contamination occurred in Kabwe but says it only held

a minority share in the Zambian company that operated the mine. □



Human rights campaigners hold up an alternative report in a protest, over claimed of human rights abuse by Anglo American South Africa Ltd, outside the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center in London where the British mining company Anglo American annual meeting is being held, Thursday, April 22, 2009.

Associated Press

Jamaica rushes to prepare for peak tourism season as it digs out from Hurricane Melissa

By JOHN MYERS, JR.

Associated Press

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica

(AP) — Jamaica's peak tourism season is one month away, and officials in the hurricane-ravaged nation are rushing to rebuild from the catastrophic Category 5 storm that shredded the island's western region.

Before Hurricane Melissa hit on Oct. 28, the government expected Jamaica's tourism industry to grow by 7% this winter season and was preparing to welcome an estimated 4.3 million visitors.

Now, officials are scrambling to repair hotels and clear debris in the western half of the island in hopes of securing tourist dollars at a moment when they're needed the most.

"We are still doing our assessments, but most of the damage was in the northwest and southwest," said Christopher Jarrett, who leads the Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association. He noted that the popular Negril area in Westmoreland was spared major damage.

All international airports in Jamaica have reopened and are receiving com-



Passengers check in at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

Associated Press

mercial flights. But almost a week after one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record struck the western end of Jamaica, tourism officials were still trying to get a true picture of the damage to the sector a mainstay of the island's economy.

Jarrett said the lobby group that represents private hotels and attractions on the island is still unable to reach

many of its members, especially in the western parish of Hanover, as communication and electricity services were down.

"Every individual member who was affected is doing everything to get back up and running," he said.

In recent days, Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said he expected Jamaica's tourism sector to be back to normal by Dec. 15, the

start of the island's peak tourism season.

"It's doable for some and not for others," Jarrett said of the timeline, pointing out that the larger hotel chains would be able to recover quicker.

Jarrett, who operates the family-owned Altamont Court Hotel that has properties in Kingston and Montego Bay, said only one property in Montego Bay

sustained roof damage and that repairs were underway. Despite the disruption to the important tourism sector, Jarrett said he doesn't expect the economic fallout to be significant. He said many hotels in the capital of Kingston and in the northern coastal town of Ocho Rios were gaining business from the influx of aid workers and volunteers in the hurricane's aftermath.

"Right now, we're giving discounts, between 25% and 50%, and some (hotels) are giving complimentary stays as well," Jarrett said.

Tourism is Jamaica's main source of foreign exchange earnings, contributing a combined 30% to GDP directly and indirectly. It employs an estimated 175,000 people and is a major economic driver for other sectors in the Jamaican economy, such as construction, banking and finance, utilities and agriculture. The disruption to the tourism sector also is affecting many providers of goods and services.

"With some of the hotels closed and most of the tourists gone, many of us are left without work. □

Tanzania's president blames foreigners for deadly protests after disputed election

DODOMA, Tanzania (AP) —

Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan on Monday blamed foreigners for last week's deadly protests

following a disputed election in which two main opposition candidates were barred from challenging her bid for another term.



Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan casts her vote during the general elections at Chamwino polling station in Dodoma, Tanzania, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025.

Associated Press

A regional African bloc, meanwhile, said the Oct. 29 election had fallen short of its standards for democratic elections.

In her first comments after she was sworn in, Hassan acknowledged the "loss of lives" and asserted that "it was not a surprise that those arrested were from other countries," without giving details. She vowed to unite the country and urged security agencies to ensure that normalcy returns. Her swearing-in was held on government-owned grounds in the administrative capital of Dodoma, a departure from her previous inauguration at a packed football stadium, as tensions

remained high. It was not clear how many people were killed in the violence around the Oct. 29 election as demonstrators took to the streets of major cities to demand that vote-counting be stopped. The military was deployed to help police quell riots. Internet connectivity has been on and off in the East African nation, disrupting travel and other activities. Gas stations and grocery shops were still closed Monday in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, with streets nearly empty. In Dodoma, most people stayed home. The government has postponed the reopening of universities, which had been set for

Nov. 3.

A spokesman for the U.N. human rights office, Seif Magango, on Friday said there were credible reports of 10 deaths in Dar es Salaam and Shinyanga and Morogoro towns.

The secretary general of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, Charles Kitiima, asserted to The Associated Press that "hundreds" of people died, citing reports from communities.

"The president has been sworn in and we hope justice will be served to those who lost their loved ones and that protesters are not targeted," the Catholic leader said, noting that Tanzania's young people are the most aggrieved. □

A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.

"I LOVE ARUBA"



Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation. Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while



you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance! Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

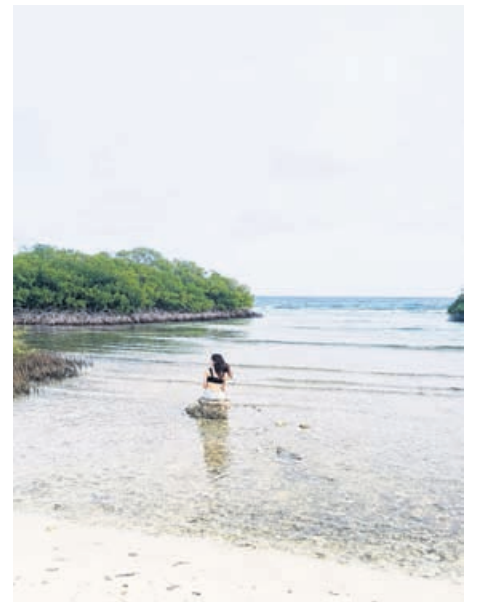
Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the

water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make "funchi"



(Oranjestad)—One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn

flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out. After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or

shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN. □

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



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Unique fauna of Aruba



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found,

but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months



old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



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Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Fueling creativity and inspiration in our future generations Divi and Tamarijn hosts masterclasses for students from EPB San Nicolas featuring Green Egg Europe's Michel Lambermon and mixologists Gilbert Gomez & Esneider Tuñon



Divi and Tamarijn organized a beautiful initiative in which the students of EPB San Nicolas had their creativity and inspiration fueled while also being equipped with the best knowledge and tools to further develop their skills. The director of EPB San Nicolas expressed that he's "very very happy with the initiative that together with Divi and Tamarijn we are presenting. A beautiful session where you can see the new systems, the grills, but also learn about cocktails. A lot of times people don't know much about this but the students got a presentation and I'm very happy and all my appreciation goes to the team that is here today."

The students had the honor of being able to meet and learn from Green Egg Europe's Executive Chef, Michel Lambermon, along with the presence of Divi and Tamarijn's Assistant General Manager Freddy Zedan, Divi and Tamarijn's Executive Chef Frank Uphoff, Divi and Tamarijn's



mixologist Gilbert Gomez and Romar Trading's mixologist Esneider Tuñon.

During the culinary masterclass with Chef Lambermon the students cooked a steamed cod fish, smoked duck breast and salmon bites cooked on cedar wood, while the students in the mixology masterclass given by the mixologist of Divi and Tamarijn along with the mixologist from Romar Trading, Gilbert Gomez and Esneider Tuñon respectively, learned the process of creating their

own mocktails and then got the opportunity to make and present these as well.

On top of broadening the knowledge for these students, they got the opportunity to directly witness the experts at work and gather real life experiences and tips in order to further build upon the skills they already have. With the culinary masterclass, they got to see a professional and celebrity expert chef at work, giving them tips, tricks and sharing insight on abilities that will make all the difference in their professional development.

With the masterclass on mixology, they not only learned about the industry and drink making, but also the personal aspect, motivated to believe in themselves and not only explore the creativity within them but bringing it to life as well. They got useful tips and tricks to not only drink making but also the social and presenting aspect of it all.

To commemorate this beautiful day, all culinary students received a personalized chef knife with their names engraved in them, and the service students received their own shaker set. □

"Aruba to me is...one happy island for sure!"

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from one of our visitors.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is...one happy island for sure! An incredible place and local people where you'll explore new places, make new friends and cherish the old! Can't wait to come back."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this



is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the

Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the

coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers,

but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

Aruba's kite flying tradition

(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks

leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, par-



ents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to

create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest,

and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air. For this year's celebration, Centro di Bario Playa Pabao located in Madiki is organizing another edition of their kite flying event with different categories of height starting at 8AM.

Gather your family and be a part of this colorful Aruban tradition in celebration of our King Willem-Alexander's birthday!

*Mondi: Aruban woods. □

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Game with a bouncing ball

6 Baghdad native

11 Concur

12 Second airing

13 Empire

14 Don Draper, e.g.

15 Impertinent

17 Ties the knot

18 Pretentious

20 Invasion

22 — Lobos

23 Advise

26 Last letter

28 Suspicious

29 Dawdled

31 Carnival city

32 Some trucks

33 Kitchen need

34 Stylish

36 Fare carrier

38 Lucy's TV husband

40 Nouveau —

43 "Hello" singer

44 Inklings

45 Plague

46 Lemon rind strips

DOWN

1 Pickle buy

2 Wisdom bringer

3 Film caterers

4 Grace in film

5 Big rig

6 Lyricist

7 Merlot, e.g.

8 The military

9 Campus part

10 Travel stops

16 Debate side

18 Bunches

19 Italia's capital

21 " — Lang Syne"

23 Abel's brother

24 Huron neighbor

25 French city

27 Iridescent black-bird

30 Superlative suffix

33 Rust compound

34 Shore crawler

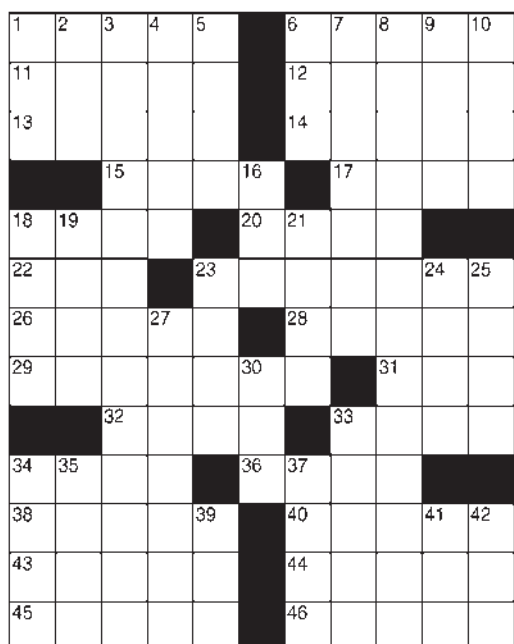
35 Stash away

37 N. Mex. neighbor

39 By now

41 Topper

42 Curvy letter



11-10

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-10

CRYPTOQUOTE

L WLT QC TXXHXPZ VXXKLJDP

PG EXKK L VGYDGZ EWXYX L

HKUNXT ZWXQ. — UQC ZUJ,

"PUBLJD VLPW VYGQ TYGEJLJD"

Cryptoquote: IT IS A SCIENTIFIC FACT THAT YOUR BODY WILL NOT ABSORB CHOLESTEROL IF YOU TAKE IT FROM ANOTHER PERSON'S PLATE. — DAVE BARRY

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 2 - 8 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
SUN	02	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	04	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	05	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SAT	08	ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	C	1

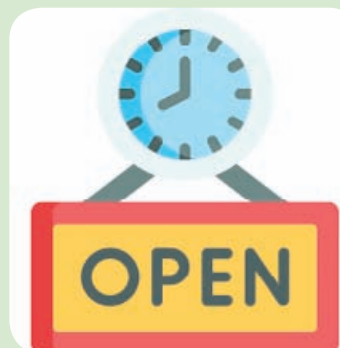
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

			6			9	5	1
				5			4	
				4	9	6		3
	4	9					1	5
8	6	2	4	1	5			
5	3					4		
9	1		8	7		5	6	
2			5		6	1		7
					4	8	3	

Difficulty: ★★

11/4

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	2	7	6	5	1	4	3
3	7	6	1	9	4	2	8	5
5	4	1	8	3	2	7	9	6
4	2	8	6	7	3	9	5	1
7	1	9	4	5	8	6	3	2
6	3	5	9	2	1	4	7	8
2	9	4	3	8	6	5	1	7
1	5	3	2	4	7	8	6	9
8	6	7	5	1	9	3	2	4

Difficulty: ★

11/3

Nature walks are good for you, but can a city stroll be just as good?



A marker signifying the burial place of Paul Revere appears on the fence at the Old Granary Burying Ground in Boston on Dec. 31, 2003.

Associated Press

By **ALBERT STUMM**
Associated Press

With every step on the trail, fallen leaves crinkle underfoot.

The path follows a stream, rushing and bubbling over smooth, gray stones, while a breeze rustles the branches overhead. Now compare that blissful mental image to what you might walk past in a city traffic, crowds, concrete and glass. Which seems better for you?

Walking in nature has been shown to boost physical and mental health, lowering stress and restoring attention. But researchers are finding plenty of mental-health benefits to walking in urban areas, too.

You just have to find the right path and pay attention to your surroundings.

Don't underestimate street trees

"Look at the green," said Whitney Fleming, an environmental psychology researcher at Bangor University in Wales, U.K. "Most cities have greenery. No matter where you are, you can find a nice tree."

She noted that walking considered moderate exercise is good for you in general; it can lower the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, dementia, depression and many types of cancer. Walking in nature goes beyond the benefits of physical movement: "Humans have an innate, evolutionary tendency to like nature."

Fleming's research has found that people who were asked to pay attention to plant life while walk-

ing were significantly less anxious afterward than those asked to focus on human-made elements. The former group also reported feeling more positive emotions. "Having natural elements to look at in cities is really important in terms of these effects, because you can still receive benefits even when not in a natural setting," she said.

But lively plazas and buildings can offer their own 'soft fascination'

Other researchers have challenged the belief that cities are inherently stressful, said Cesar San Juan Guillen, a social psychology professor at the University of Basque Country in Spain.

Until recently, he said, much environmental research was biased against the built environment, comparing natural settings with stressful urban ones, such as traffic-heavy streets. □



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Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011
San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

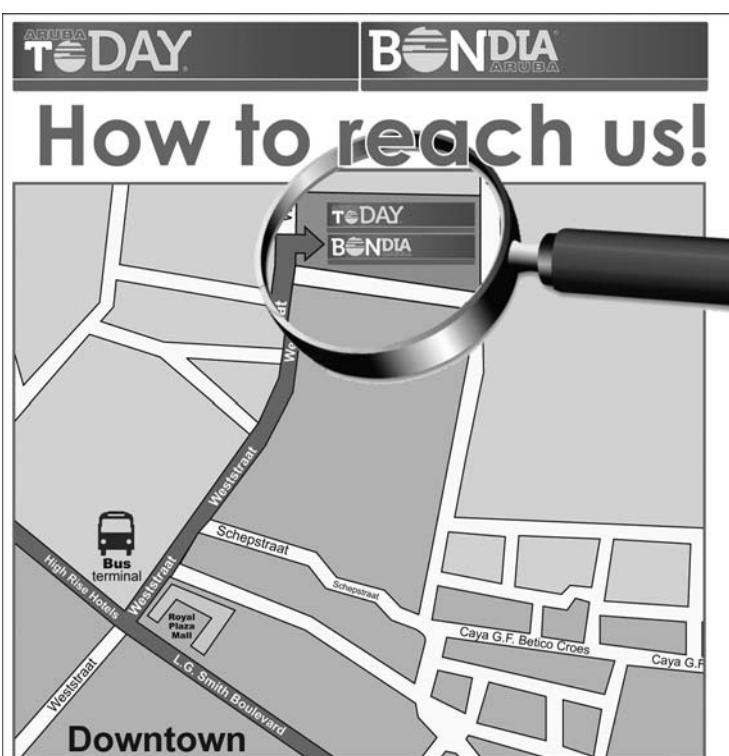
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Tylenol, Kleenex, Band-Aid and more put under one roof in \$48.7 billion consumer brands deal

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

Kimberly-Clark is buying Tylenol maker Kenvue in a cash and stock deal worth about \$48.7 billion, creating a massive consumer health goods company. Shareholders of Kimberly-Clark will own about 54% of the combined company. Kenvue shareholders will own about 46% in what is one of the largest corporate takeovers this year. The combined company will have a huge stable of household brands under one roof, putting Kenvue's Listerine mouthwash and Band-Aid side-by-side with Kimberly-Clark's Cottonelle toilet paper, Huggies and Kleenex tissues. It will also generate about \$32 billion in annual revenue. Kenvue has spent a relatively brief period as an independent company, having been spun off by Johnson & Johnson two years ago. J&J first announced in late 2021 that it was splitting its slow-growth consumer health division from the pharmaceutical and medical device divisions. Kenvue has since been targeted by activist investors unhappy about the



Extra Strength Tylenol is shown in Carmel, Ind., Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025.

trajectory of the company and Wall Street appeared to anticipate some heavy lifting ahead for Kimberly-Clark. Shares of Kimberly-Clark, based in just outside of Dallas, slumped more than 13% on Monday. Kenvue's stock jumped more than 14%. Kenvue and Tylenol have been thrust into the national spotlight this year as President Donald Trump and Health Secretary Robert F.

Kennedy Jr. promoted unproven and in some cases discredited ties between Tylenol, vaccines and the complex brain disorder autism. Trump then urged pregnant women against using the medicine. That went beyond Food and Drug Administration advice that doctors "should consider minimizing" the painkiller acetaminophen's use in pregnancy amid incon-

clusive evidence about whether too much could be linked to autism. Kennedy reiterated the FDA guidance during a press conference last week. He said that there isn't sufficient evidence to link the drug to autism. "We have asked physicians to minimize the use to when it's absolutely necessary," he said. Kenvue has continued to push back on the Trump

administration's public statements about Tylenol and acetaminophen, the active ingredient it contains. "Nothing is more important to us than the health and safety of the people who use our products," Kenvue said in a statement on its website. "We believe independent, sound science clearly shows that taking acetaminophen does not cause autism. We strongly disagree with allegations that it does and are deeply concerned about the health risks and confusion this poses for expecting mothers and parents." But Kenvue has been a disappointment for investors and its stock is down more than 23% this year. Critics say growth has stalled and the company has relied too much on its legacy brands and failed to innovate. Industry analysts with Citi point out the poor track record for mergers involving consumer packaged goods companies. In September, Kraft Heinz said it would break up its decade-old merger after its tie-up created one of the biggest food manufacturers on the planet. □

Associated Press

Microsoft \$9.7 billion deal with IREN will give it access to Nvidia chips

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**
AP Business Writer

Microsoft has entered into

a \$9.7 billion cloud services contract with artificial intelligence cloud service pro-

vider IREN that will give it access to some of Nvidia's chips. The five-year deal, which includes a 20% prepayment, will help Microsoft as it looks to keep up with AI demand. Last week the software maker reported its quarterly sales grew 18% to \$77.7 billion, beating Wall Street expectations while also surprising some investors with the huge amounts of money it is spending to expand its cloud computing infrastructure and address the growing need for AI tools. Microsoft spent nearly \$35 billion in the July-September quarter on capital expenditures to support AI

and cloud demand, nearly half of that on computer chips and much of the rest related to data center real estate. "IREN's expertise in building and operating a fully integrated AI cloud from data centers to GPU stack combined with their secured power capacity makes them a strategic partner," Jonathan Tinter, president of business development and ventures at Microsoft, said in a statement. "This collaboration unlocks new growth opportunities for both companies and the customers we serve." Microsoft also announced new deal with OpenAI last week that pushed the Redmond, Washington,

company to \$4 trillion in valuation for the second time this year. The agreement gives the software giant a roughly 27% stake in OpenAI's new for-profit corporation but changes some of the details of their close partnership. Microsoft's \$135 billion stake will be just ahead of the OpenAI nonprofit's \$130 billion stake in the for-profit company. IREN also said Monday that it signed a deal with Dell Technologies to buy the chips and ancillary equipment for about \$5.8 billion. The Australian company anticipates the chips being deployed in phases through next year at its Childress, Texas campus. □



Middle school teacher Jeremy Hook shops for the latests Microsoft's Surface Laptop Copilot+ PC's at Best Buy Atwater Village store in Glendale, Calif., Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

Associated Press

After the \$500 million Dodgers' title repeat, what's next for MLB?

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The \$500 million Los Angeles Dodgers' thrilling World Series win over the Toronto Blue Jays attracted record international attention for Major League Baseball, affirmed LA's status as the sport's best team and drew more attention to baseball's payroll disparity heading into what is likely to be contentious labor negotiations. Los Angeles' 5-4, 11-inning win over Toronto in Game 7 on Saturday night capped a postseason with seven winner-take-all games, two more than any previous year.

Shohei Ohtani is building a case as the sport's best player ever with his unprecedented two-way performances, captivating audiences outside the U.S. unlike any previous player. "It just absolutely been the greatest benefit to the game that you can imagine throughout the year," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred.

Toronto's success this year sparked interest throughout Canada, which gave the Blue Jays nationwide support.

Aaron Judge, Bobby Witt Jr., Paul Skenes and Cal Raleigh already have committed to play for the United States in next year's World Baseball Classic, which is



Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw celebrates with the trophy after their win against the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 7 of baseball's World Series, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, in Toronto.

Associated Press

gaining increased interest with each addition.

And MLB is negotiating to send big league players to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics during an extended All-Star break.

"Players are interested in playing, whether it's for the Team USA or any number of other teams around the world," union head Tony Clark said.

The Dodgers are already talking about a three-peat Minutes after the Dodgers became the first repeat champion since the 1998-2000 New York Yankees,

Dodgers star Freddie Freeman said matching that pinstriped power was the next goal.

"The Yankees are three-time back-to-back," he said, "so we get to use that same narrative next year." Those Yankees are among just four instances of teams winning three or more consecutive championships alongside five by the 1949-53 Yankees, four by the 1936-39 Yankees and three by the 1972-74 Oakland Athletics.

Big market spending sparks talk of salary-cap proposal

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts attracted attention after the National League Championship Series sweep of Milwaukee when he yelled to Los Angeles fans: "They said the Dodgers are ruining baseball. Let's get four more wins and really ruin baseball!" Los Angeles entered the World Series having spent \$509.5 million in major league payroll and projected luxury tax, plus another \$6.5 million for pitcher Roki Sasaki's minor league signing bonus.

Including Sasaki's bonus,

the Dodgers spending for its two World Series title teams totaled at least \$890 million. The New York Mets, who failed to reach the playoffs this year after getting knocked out in last year's NLCS, have spent about \$860 million in 2024 and '25.

In a sign of how much payroll disparity has increased, the Athletics spent less than \$150 million over the same period.

Manfred repeatedly has said owners haven't settled on their labor proposals, but the players' association is bracing to resist a push for a salary cap. Demand for a cap from owners is what led to a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 and the first cancellation of the World Series in 90 years.

The labor contract expires on Dec. 2, 2026, and bargaining is likely to start this winter or spring.

More Japanese players likely headed to MLB

Following the success of Shohei Ohtani, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Roki Sasaki, more Japanese players may sign with MLB teams.

Munetaka Murakami, a third baseman who turns 26 in February, is expected to be posted by the Yakult Swallows. He hit .273 with 22 homers and 47 RBIs this year, limited to 56 games by an oblique injury. □

Miami Dolphins trade edge rusher Jaelan Phillips to Philadelphia Eagles, AP source says

By **ALANIS THAMES**
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — The Miami Dolphins are trading edge rusher Jaelan Phillips to the reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles in exchange for a third-round pick in next year's draft, a person with knowledge of the move said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been finalized or revealed publicly.

It's a move that reunites Phillips with Eagles defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who was in that same role with Miami in 2023. And Phillips was on pace for a huge year that season before a season-ending Achilles tendon tear, with 6 1/2 sacks and 43 tackles in only eight games.

The trade is the first one orchestrated by Dolphins interim general manager Champ Kelly, who assumed that job after longtime GM Chris Grier parted ways with the franchise last week.

Phillips figures to be an instant boost for the Eagles' pass rush. Philadelphia has only 16 sacks through eight games, tied for ninth-fewest in the 32-team NFL so far this season.

Phillips, drafted by the Dolphins from the University of Miami in 2021, is making \$13.3 million in the final season of his rookie deal. He'll be a free agent following the season. Phillips set a franchise rookie record with 8 1/2 sacks in his first season in the NFL and followed that with 7 sacks the next year. After returning from the 2023 Achilles injury, Phillips tore his ACL in Week 4 of the 2024 season. □



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Kirk Cousins (18) looks to pass as Miami Dolphins linebacker Jaelan Phillips (15) defends during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025, in Atlanta.

Associated Press





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Delgado, Kent, Sheffield and Valenzuela join Hall ballot with Bonds, Clemens, Mattingly and Murphy

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Don Mattingly and Dale Murphy were held over on the Hall of Fame's contemporary baseball era committee ballot and will be joined next month by Carlos Delgado, Jeff Kent, Gary Sheffield and Fernando Valenzuela.

The 16-person committee meets on Dec. 7 at the winter meetings in Orlando, Florida, and a 75% vote is necessary for election. Anyone elected will be inducted on July 26, along with anyone chosen in the Baseball Writers' Association of America vote, announced on Jan. 20.

Albert Belle, Rafael Palmeiro and Curt Schilling were dropped after appearing on the previous contemporary era ballot in December 2022, when Fred McGriff was unanimously elected with 16 votes. Mattingly received eight, Schilling seven, Murphy six and Belle, Bonds, Clemens and Palmeiro less than four, the Hall said then.



Former Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Barry Bonds acknowledges the crowd during a ceremony for players that are part of the team's 2024 Hall of Fame class before a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Pittsburgh, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024.

The Hall in 2022 restructured its veterans committees for the third time in 12 years, setting up panels to consider the contemporary era from 1980 on, as well as the classic era. The contemporary baseball era holds separate ballots for players

and another for managers, executives and umpires. Each committee meets every three years. Contemporary managers, executives and umpires will be considered in December 2026, classic era candidates in December 2027 and con-

temporary era players again in December 2028. The December 2027 ballot is the first chance for Pete Rose to appear on a Hall ballot after baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred decided in May that Rose's permanent suspen-

sion ended with his death in September 2024. The Hall prohibits anyone on the permanent ineligible list from appearing on a ballot. Under a change announced by the Hall last March, any candidate on the ballot who receives fewer than five votes will not be eligible for that committee's ballot during the next three-year cycle. A candidate who is dropped, later reappears on a ballot and again receives fewer than five votes would be barred from future ballot appearances.

Bonds and Clemens fell short in 2022 in their 10th and final appearances on the BBWAA ballot, when Bonds received 260 of 394 votes (66%) and Clemens 257 (65.2%).

Sheffield received 63.9% in his final BBWAA vote in 2024, getting 246 votes and falling 43 shy.

Bonds denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs and Clemens maintains he never used PEDs. □

Associated Press

Kyle Kirkwood signs multi-year extension with Andretti Global after breakout season



Kyle Kirkwood leans on a tool box as he waits for his turn during qualification for the Indianapolis 500 auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Saturday, May 17, 2025.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Andretti Global on Monday announced IndyCar driver Kyle Kirkwood has signed a multi-year contract extension to remain in the No. 27 for the organization.

The length of the deal for the winner of five IndyCar races was not disclosed. Kirkwood was developed by Andretti but began his IndyCar career with A.J. Foyt Racing as he waited for a seat to open at Andretti. He moved in 2023 and in two seasons has won five times, won three poles and scored six podium finishes. This last season was a breakout year for Kirkwood with wins at Long Beach, Detroit and St. Louis, and he finished fourth in the championship standings.

"We've had an amazing three years together and our future together is very

bright," Kirkwood said. "We have proven to be true contenders, and most recently, championship contenders. Our trajectory has only been up, and I am confident that we will be fighting again for championships."

Kirkwood is the only driver to win titles in all three IndyCar development series USF2000, USF Pro 2000 and INDY NXT in consecutive years. He won those titles with Andretti.

"Kyle represents exactly what we strive for across TWG Motorsports and Andretti Global.

His blueprint for success has made him a key part of our IndyCar lineup defined by talent, tenacity and a relentless drive to win," Andretti Global president Jill Gregory said. □